

REMARKS

Claims 10-25 are pending. By the foregoing amendment, claims 10, 16, 20, and 24 have been amended, and claims 15, 18, 19 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The amendments to claims 10, 16, 20, and 24 were to further clarify the claims and were not made for purposes of patentability. For the same reasons as discussed in the previous Amendment with respect to claim 15, claim 10 has been amended to recite Group VIb carbides. Support for this amendment can be found in the preferred embodiments section of this application as well as the Summary of the Invention and knowledge in the art that Group VIb carbides are well-known steam reforming catalysts, while Group IVb carbides are not. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not introduce any new matter and favorable consideration is requested.

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 10-14 have been allowed. The claims are now amended such that claim 10 is the only independent claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of all section 103 rejections is respectfully requested in favor of allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

If the Examiner has any questions or would like to speak to Applicants' representative, the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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